

Forest Service Lewis and Clark **National Forest** White Sulphur Springs Ranger District

204 W. Folsom P.O. Box A White Sulphur Spr., MT 59645 406 547-3361 FAX 406 547-3874

File Code: 2720

Date: November 7, 2003

Mark Hansen Excomm LLC/Commnet Wireless Inc. 1562 Park Street, Unit E Castle Rock, CO 80104

## Dear Mark:

This letter documents recent telephone conversations between Kaylene Monson, of my staff and Cindy Phillips of Commnet Wireless, Inc. As discussed with Cindy we were unable to complete the analysis process as required by law (National Environmental Policy Act) in order to process your application for a 10-year Special Use Permit to locate a communications tower at Porphyry Peak this summer. Kaylene is in the process now of completing the analysis documentation and I anticipate being able to make a decision prior to the end of the year. However, due to the impossibility of constructing a tower during the winter months you will be unable to implement the project until spring.

Although we were unable to complete the analysis for the 10-year permit we did issue a temporary use permit for placement of a "Cell on Wheels" near the Showdown Ski Area Lodge. I understand from Cindy that George Willett, Showdown Ski Area President has requested you to remove your site during the ski season and that the site was removed.

During the summer of 2003 we had a large wildfire on the district and were able to utilize cell phones at the base camp as a result of the temporary cell site. It was of a benefit to us to have the service available. Without the cell site at Porphyry Peak the base camp would have been in a complete dead spot as far as wireless service is concerned. The existence of your cell site allowed for enhanced communication and safety efforts during the fire-fighting operation.

We do look forward to working with you on this project once the snow melts. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project please feel free to contact Kaylene Monson or myself at (406) 547-3361.

Sincerely,

District Ranger

cc: Allan W Tschida



FYI

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NO. 245

11/17/2003 04:32

COMMINET → COLORADO

To: Commnet Wireless Attn: Mark Hansen

TANKE SIAME KARABAN

From: Kirk Barfuss

White Sulphur Springs, Mt.

Date: November 14, 2003

Sir's,

I'm writing regarding cellular service your company provides in the White Sulphur Springs and Neihart Montana area.

I'm a Patrolman with the Montana Highway Patrol, stationed in White Sulphur Springs, Mt. I currently have service with Cellular One, which is very limited once you leave the White Sulphur Springs area. I'm pleased to see another company provide service in the area and extend the service north of White Sulphur Springs towards King's Hill (Showdown Ski Area). King's Hill area is a growing recreational spot, bringing travelers from all around the state. The Ski resort and Snowmobile activity is some of the best in the State of Montana. During the summer, US-89 running north and south thru White Sulphur Springs and over king's Hill Pass is the scenic highway between Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park.

Currently, the service Commnet is providing has a greater range of service over Cellular One. I feel the new tower being planned for the King's Hill area will be very beneficial for not only the motoring public, but will be another major lifeline for Law Enforcement and Government agencies in the area.

I plan on switching my cellular provider to Verizon Wireless, due to your great service in the area.

Thank You,

Kirk Barfuss P.O. Box 352

White Sulphur Springs

Mt. 59645

Home: (406) 547-3337 Cell: (406) 547-4017



"The only county ia Montana with a Castle"

## Meagher County Sheriff/Coroner

Rick Seldlitz P.O. Box 449 101 West Crawford White Sulphur Springs, Montana 59645 Business Phone (406) 547-3398

11-19-03

Mark Hansen Excomm, LLC/Commnet Wireless 1562 Park Street, Unit E Castle Rock, CO 80104

Re: Emergency Communications at Neihart, Montana

Dear Mr. Hansen:

On behalf of those who spent the past summer fighting some of the worst forest fires we have encountered in some time, I would like to thank your company again for the excellent assistance that you provided when we had no other viable wireless telecommunications service for the fire fighters. Your cell site at Neihart was the only one providing coverage in the area, and without it, we would have been in a complete dead spot. By facilitating our placing our temporary headquarters co-located with your cell, we were able to stay in contact with crews. The existence of your cell site certainly saved lives and property during the fire-fighting effort.

I understand from you that you are now required to remove your site during the ski season, but are hoping to construct a permanent cell site (as opposed to the flatbed trailer set-up that you had) next summer. I hope that you succeed, because if there is another fire or similar emergency, we would like you to be available again. Please feel free to give the FCC a copy of this letter as part of any explanation you make to them about being off the air during the snows.

Sincerely,

Richard E Seidlitz

Meagher County Sheriff